

# Fruits

## Apples

Apple production in the Commonwealth totaled 245 million pounds, up 8 percent from last year and up 14 percent from 2007. The growing season for 2009 was favorable for apples. The year began cool and wet with minor frost damage. At the start of April, the majority of the apple crop was in fair to good condition. Growing conditions improved with ideal temperatures and timely showers. At harvest time, over 70 percent of the apple crop was in good condition.

## Peaches

Virginia's peach production was up 600 tons from last year, totaling 5,800 tons. The price per ton for peaches averaged \$1,250, up from 2008 price of \$1,070. The highest price for peaches was Massachusetts at \$2,400 per ton. The lowest price was Washington at \$360 per ton. The US average price for peaches (excluding Clingstone) was \$709 per ton. At the time of harvest, approximately 90 percent of the crop was in fair to good condition. The peach harvest was completed by the second week in September, about one week behind normal.

## Grapes

The 2009 growing season was a diverse season for grape producers across the state of Virginia. While some producers reported having an excellent crop, many stated that they experience poor fruit set due to extremely wet and cool weather during the spring. Some reported a total loss due to adverse weather conditions, such as hail, which knocked the buds completely off the vines, or rain, which contributed to disease. Animal pressure was also a problem, with deer, raccoons, turkeys, wild honey bees, birds and a bear all contributing to unharvested tonnage.